

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-7 (canceled)

8. (currently amended) A network device having a unique identification number, the network device comprising:

a secret key embodied in said network device when the network device is manufactured;

means for generating a two-part message requesting, from a digital authority, a digital certificate wherein the first part of the message includes the unique identification number and the second part of the message is an encryption of the first part of the message using the secret key; and

means for receiving a digital certificate if after decryption of said second part of said two-part message, said second part of said two-part message matches said first part of said two-part message.

9. (original) The network device of claim 8 wherein the network device is a printer.

10. (original) The network device of claim 8 wherein the network device is a fax machine.

11. (original) The network device of claim 8 wherein the network device is a modem.

Claims 12-14 (canceled)

15. (new) The network device of claim 8 wherein said digital certificate includes a public key and an encrypted new private key.